

[News story: Grouse moors: Working together to achieve shared outcomes](#)

The National Gamekeepers Organisation has provided an industry-led free grouse moor training day at [Snilesworth Estate](#) on the North York Moors (02 August) to help improve land management and enhance local wildlife.

The day gave new Natural England upland staff an insight into the day-to-day management of a driven grouse moor to better equip them with the skills and understanding to work together with land managers, farmers and gamekeepers on the restoration of upland habitats. Organised by John Clarke from the National Gamekeepers' Organisation and Simon Lovel from Natural England, the training was delivered by Snilesworth Estate head keeper, Jimmy Shuttlewood and his team. Natural England is now considering organising a future training day for hill farming later in the year.

The training looked at grouse moor management from an industry perspective, focusing on the life cycle of grouse, habitat management, predator control, medicated grit, which activities take place at different times of year, considerations keepers make in the siting of grouse butts and other infrastructure, and what happens on a typical shoot day.

Natural England uplands policy advisor Simon Lovel said:

Conservation is ultimately about people and by increasing our understanding of those who manage the land, the easier it is to find genuine shared outcomes that can be delivered utilising the local knowledge and traditional skills of the practitioners on the ground. We are planning upland ecology training for gamekeepers and farmers later in the year.

John Clarke from the [National Gamekeepers Organisation](#) added:

This has been a fantastic step towards working together in the future.

Those attending had a greater understanding of how driven grouse moors are managed and the associated range of environmental benefits, including the restoration of upland habitats. Going forward, Natural England staff, gamekeepers, farmers and land managers will be able to work better together to achieve healthy and resilient upland ecosystems, that will support thriving local communities off the back of sustainable land uses.

Natural England's Chairman, Andrew Sells, recently spoke at [the Game Fair and highlighted the benefits for conservation of moorland from partnership working](#).

He said:

We are also seeing more estates coming into partnership agreements with Natural England, voluntarily finding ways to enhance the environment. These deepening relationships will be vital in joining up prime wildlife sites and achieving goals of the [25 Year Environment Plan](#).

[Press release: Living on the hedge of the A64](#)

Over the last seven months, Highways England has been carrying out a major junction improvement at Barton Hill near York to improve safety and visibility for road users. As part of this £2.8m scheme which completed on Friday, sections of the hedgerow, a number of trees and stone from an old water culvert had to be removed.

But rather than throwing these items away Highways England and its contractor A-one+ have given them a new lease of life by working closely with Jonathan and Julian Curtoys, the owners of Sloemotion.

Highways England project manager Russell Mclean said:

We saved as much of the hedgerow as possible but sections of the hedge had to be removed. The sloe berries used to produce the gin grow on hedgerows, so it seemed like the perfect solution to donate the hedge to this local sloe gin producing firm.

We were able to reduce the amount hedgerow we needed to remove by altering some of the scheme's drainage and this work will also help to prevent flooding in the area. Some logs from the trees were also donated to Castle Howard stately home to be used as chippings in the ground.

Cabinetmaker and artist Mark Bennett, of the Woodlark in Malton, was also brought on board. He will be taking part of an Oak tree which was removed from the site and transforming it into a bar for Sloemotion. The remainder of the tree will be used to create bat and bird boxes, which will be placed near to the A64.

Mark will also be using some of the removed hedgerows to create innovative displays for the gin company's products and hand cut stone from the culvert will be used to adorn the company's new buildings near Barton-le-Willows.

Russell added:

Our work to improve safety at the junction will benefit over 9,000 drivers a day. We have converted the crossroads to a staggered junction by realigning Mains Lane, extended the culvert to allow the carriageway to be widened, constructed 200m of new road and realigned 600m of the A64. We have also relocated a bus stop, an emergency telephone and a pedestrian crossing.

While we were doing this we upgraded and extended an otter fence to prevent them coming onto the A64. And we have reinstalled an old milepost and will be replacing a historic road sign that has been refurbished.

Jonathan Curtoys, Managing Director of Sloemotion, said the junction improvements will benefit his employees who use the junction.

The changes will certainly have a positive benefit for drivers but then to also donating the hedgerow, the stones and timber to local businesses it feels like something is being given back to the community. I commend Highways England and A-one+ for this – it has been a pleasure working with them over the last seven months.

Mark Bennett of The Woodlark added:

It's great that we can use what would otherwise have gone to waste and give something back to the environment such as the bird and bat boxes.

Later this year replacement hedgerows will be planted.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[News story: New competition: Biosensing across wide areas](#)

Updated: Competition now open.

DASA is launching this competition to seek ideas for innovative technologies that can provide an improved way to rapidly detect and locate hazardous biological agents in the field. The ultimate aim is for a fieldable system that would detect and report without users (including trained military specialists and civilian first line responders) coming into close contact with the hazard.

By detecting these hazards as early as possible and remotely, it will enable front line users to safely avoid them.

[This competition](#) has an initial budget of £500k for Phase 1. Additional funding is anticipated to be available for future phases of this competition.

This competition is now open and full details are available in the [competition document](#).

The competition will close at 1pm on 7 November 2018

If you have any queries on this competition, please do contact us at accelerator@dstl.gov.uk or [sign up for alerts](#).

[Guidance: The Renewables Obligation: the biomass co-firing and conversion exempt combustion unit estimate, 2018 to 2019](#)

The [Renewables Obligation \(Amendment\) Order 2018](#) came into force on 20 July 2018. It strengthens cost control measures for certain biomass conversion and co-firing stations by implementing annual flexible caps on the amount of support that units not protected by grandfathering policy can receive.

The caps come into operation from 1 September 2018 and apply to 2 types of biomass co-firing and conversion stations:

- capped generating stations, which comprise only non-grandfathered 'capped' units'

- mixed generating stations, which comprise non-grandfathered 'capped' units and grandfathered 'exempt' units

This explanatory note explains how both types of cap will operate during 2018 to 2019 and announces the level of the 2018 to 2019 exempt combustion unit estimate which will form part of the overall station cap for mixed generating stations.

[World news story: British Embassy launches National Wildlife Protection Themed Campaign in China](#)

Designed to raise public awareness of the global effects of illegal wildlife trade (IWT), the 'End Wildlife Crime' campaign will include more than eight events across China over the coming months, all leading up to the fourth global IWT conference hosted in London in October.

The launch event took place in Beijing Fang and was in partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

'End Wildlife Crime' comes at a particularly crucial time when our nature, forests, oceans and wildlife, have all been increasingly affected by human activities. Excessive deforestation and the expanding cities deprive the wildlife of their habitats. Many species are being poached for use in illegal trade. In the last decade, the number of elephants alone has declined by almost a third and around 20,000 a year are still being slaughtered because of the global demand for ivory.

With its continued commitment to wildlife protection, the UK will host the fourth global IWT Conference this October, convening over 40 countries, including China, to discuss and agree a way forward for tackling this important global challenge together.

The UK government in China launched this nationwide wildlife protection campaign to raise public awareness of the severe situation endangered species are facing to survive, including elephants, pangolins, rhinos and tigers. By introducing the global effects of illegal wildlife trade, the UK government would like to encourage the public to take a more active role in diminishing the demand of illegal wildlife products. This campaign will include a series of photography exhibitions, film festivals and panel discussions across China including in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Chengdu, Chongqing and Guangzhou.

During the opening ceremony, Martyn Roper, the Chargé d'Affaires of the British Embassy, said:

The UK and China have been working closely towards our joint goal of sustainable development, this includes through collective actions between our governments and our people on ecological and environmental protection and combating illegal wildlife trade together to protect the planet.

At the beginning of this year, China's domestic ban on the commercial trade of ivory took effect. Likewise, the UK is committed to working ever closer with China in these areas. This October, the UK will host the fourth Conference to tackle the illegal wildlife trade in London, where we look forward to joining hands with China again in the rise of this global challenge.

We hope that through our campaign 'End Wildlife Crime' that more people will be aware of the important role we have to play in eradicating this global issue and saving our planet together.

Xu Maomao, the Project & Operations Director of IFAW said:

Irresponsible consumption and trade of wildlife productions are damaging the global biodiversity. Poaching and hunting of species like elephant, pangolin, rhino and tiger, excessive and mindless consumption of wildlife productions by some consumers are pushing the species to the brink of extinction.

We call for everyone to stop consuming wildlife and save their lives.

Notes to Editor:

About 'End Wildlife Crime'

Time	City /Venue	Events
10th Aug	BEIJING FUN	National Launch
10th Aug- 14th Aug	BEIJING FUN	Photo Exhibition and screening
17th Aug	BEIJING/ Lumière Pavilions	Screening and Panel Discussion
19th Aug	CHONGQING / Yuejie Movie City	Screening and Panel Discussion
19th Aug	CHONGQING / Fangsuo Screening	and Panel Discussion
24th Aug	BEIJING/ Lumière Pavilions	Screening and Panel Discussion
1st Sep	CHONGQING / UME	Screening and Panel Discussion
15th Sep	BEIJING/ British Ambassador's Residence	Open Day Wildlife theme activities

Coming soon: Guangzhou, Shanghai, Wuhan.

About IFAW

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is a global non-profit

organization that protects animals and the places they call home. IFAW has offices in 17 countries and projects in over 40 countries, with over 200 experienced campaigners, legal and political experts, and internationally acclaimed scientists. Our work connects wildlife rescue and conservation, as we believe that the value of the individual animal is linked to the health of the population and ecosystem at large.

About Lumière Pavilions

Lumière Pavilions is a cinema investment company focusing on the development and operation of high-end cinemas in China. Since its establishment, the company has positioned itself as the trendsetter in the industry by way of its global vision, innovative designs and adoption of advanced technology. Its introduction of the world-class practices in design, construction, technology, content and service in compliance with international standards has not only garnered acclamation from the general audience but also elevated the company to emerge as a leading brand amongst the competition.

About the Jackson Hole Film Festival

The Jackson Hole Film Festival is a biennial 6-day conference, well-known and the most prestigious media event of the year devoted to the nature conservation, which gathers more than 650 international leaders in science, broadcasting, conservation, and media. That festival is dedicated to helping filmmakers find their own audiences, providing acquisition, marketing and distribution services. Also Jackson Hole Film Festival is a very exciting, social and educational event devoted to the Wild Nature, its problems and forecasts. It is supported by Jackson Hole Film Institute, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to empower filmmakers and audiences through film and new media.